

Application No. 10/656,345

Reply to Office Action of August 25, 2005

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

#### **Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A bioprosthetic device ~~for soft tissue attachment, reinforcement, or construction, the device comprising:~~  
a sheet of naturally occurring extracellular matrix; and  
a sheet of bioabsorbable synthetic mesh coupled to the naturally occurring extracellular matrix, wherein the sheet of synthetic mesh has a rate of absorption that is slower than a rate of absorption of the sheet of naturally occurring extracellular matrix.
2. (Currently Amended) The bioprosthetic device of claim 1, wherein the sheet of naturally occurring extracellular matrix is a sheet of SIS small intestine submucosa.
3. (Currently Amended) The bioprosthetic device of claim 1, wherein ~~the sheet of naturally occurring extracellular matrix and the sheet of synthetic mesh are generally planar~~ the bioprosthetic device is generally planar in shape.
4. (Currently Amended) The bioprosthetic device of claim 1, wherein the sheet of naturally occurring extracellular matrix ~~is~~ comprises a top tissue layer of naturally occurring extracellular matrix and is coupled to a bottom tissue layer of naturally occurring extracellular matrix, and the sheet of synthetic mesh is coupled to and positioned to lie between the top tissue layer and the bottom tissue layer.
5. (Original) The bioprosthetic device of claim 1, wherein the sheet of synthetic mesh includes a length and a width equal to or greater than a length and a width of the sheet of naturally occurring extracellular matrix.
6. (Withdrawn) The bioprosthetic device of claim 5, wherein the naturally occurring extracellular matrix is dehydrated and the length and width of the sheet of naturally occurring extracellular matrix is the same as the length and width of the sheet of synthetic mesh.
7. (Previously presented) The bioprosthetic device of claim 4, wherein the sheet of naturally occurring extracellular matrix is circular in shape and the sheet of synthetic mesh is circular in shape.

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8. (Original) The bioprosthetic device of claim 1, wherein the sheet of naturally occurring extracellular matrix comprises multiple layers of naturally occurring extracellular matrix.

9. (Original) The bioprosthetic device of claim 1, wherein the sheet of naturally occurring extracellular matrix is perforated.

10. (Currently Amended) A bioprosthetic device ~~for soft tissue attachment, reinforcement, or construction, the device comprising:~~

multiple sheets of naturally occurring extracellular matrix; and

multiple sheets of synthetic mesh coupled to the naturally occurring extracellular matrix, wherein the bioprosthetic device comprises a stack of the sheets of naturally occurring extracellular matrix separated by the sheets of synthetic mesh.

11. (Original) The bioprosthetic device of claim 1, wherein the sheet of synthetic mesh is coated with comminuted SIS~~small intestine submucosa~~.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Original) The bioprosthetic device of claim 1, wherein the synthetic portion comprises a material selected from the group consisting of Prolene<sup>TM</sup>, Vicryl<sup>TM</sup>, and Mersilene<sup>TM</sup>.

15. (Currently Amended) A bioprosthetic device ~~for soft tissue attachment, reinforcement, and/or reconstruction, the device comprising:~~

a top sheet of small intestinal submucosa (SIS) comprising multiple small intestine submucosa~~SIS tissue~~ layers, the top sheet having a first surface area,

a bottom sheet of small intestine submucosa ~~SIS~~ comprising multiple small intestine submucosa~~SIS tissue~~ layers, the bottom sheet having a second surface area, wherein the first area and second area are the same;

and a bioabsorbable mesh device having a third surface area, the mesh device coupled to and positioned to lie between the top and bottom sheets of SIS~~small intestine submucosa~~, wherein the sheet of synthetic mesh has a rate of absorption that is slower than a rate of absorption of the sheet of naturally occurring extracellular matrix.

16. (Withdrawn) The bioprosthetic device of claim 15, wherein the third surface area is equal to the first and second surface areas.

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17. (Original) The bioprosthetic device of claim 15, wherein the third surface area is greater than the first and second surface areas.

18. (New) The bioprosthetic device of claim 1, wherein the naturally occurring extracellular matrix is selected from the group consisting of intestine submucosa, stomach submusoca, bladder submucosa, alimentary submucosa, respiratory sumucosa and genital submucosa.